

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently amended) A method of facilitating a lottery ticket transaction, comprising:

receiving, by a lottery device, a request by a player to purchase a lottery ticket for a lottery drawing, wherein the lottery ticket is assigned a lottery number combination;

determining, by the lottery device, whether a request to limit the number of occurrences of the lottery number combination has been made by the player, the request indicating that the lottery number combination be exclusively assigned to only a single lottery ticket for the lottery drawing, such that the lottery number combination will not be assigned to any other lottery ticket purchased for the lottery drawing;

performing, by the lottery device, one of (a) or (b):

(a) if a request that the lottery number combination be exclusively assigned to only a single lottery ticket has been made by the player, in response to the request by the player that the lottery number combination be exclusively assigned to only a single lottery ticket for the lottery drawing,

determining the lottery number combination such that the lottery number combination is exclusively assigned to only a single lottery ticket for the lottery drawing,

in which determining the lottery number combination comprises using a random process to select at least one number of the lottery number combination; and

preventing the lottery number combination from being assigned to at least one additional lottery ticket for the lottery drawing; or

(b) if a request that the lottery number combination be exclusively assigned to only a single lottery ticket has not been made by the player, determining the lottery number combination such that it is possible that at the time of the lottery drawing the lottery number combination could be assigned to more than one lottery ticket for the lottery drawing;

and

outputting, by the lottery device, an indication of the lottery number combination determined according to either (a) or (b).

49-51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving, by a controller and from a lottery terminal at a retail store, a request to purchase a lottery ticket for a drawing in a pari-mutuel lottery;

receiving, by the controller and from the lottery terminal, an indication of a request to limit the number of occurrences of the lottery number combination by a player, the request indicating that a set of symbols is to be assigned to no more than a predetermined number of lottery tickets sold with respect to the drawing;

in response to receiving the indication from the lottery terminal, determining, by the controller, the set of symbols; and

transmitting, from the controller, an indication of the determined set of symbols to the lottery terminal;

wherein no more than one of the predetermined number of lottery tickets is purchased by the player.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52 wherein the predetermined number of lottery tickets is one lottery ticket.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52, further comprising:

preventing at least one lottery ticket from being sold with the determined set of symbols.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52, further comprising:

determining a lottery ticket identifier.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, further comprising:

transmitting an indication of the lottery ticket identifier to the lottery terminal.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52, wherein determining the set of symbols comprises:

determining a set of symbols that has not previously been assigned to any lottery ticket with respect to the drawing.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 57, further comprising:  
preventing at least one lottery ticket from being sold with the determined set of symbols.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52, further comprising:  
storing an indication of a price for the lottery ticket.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59 further comprising:  
determining the price based on the predetermined number of lottery tickets.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59 further comprising:  
determining the price based on the received indication.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52 wherein determining the set of symbols comprises:  
randomly determining the set of symbols.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 62 further comprising:  
verifying that the randomly determined set of symbols has not previously been assigned to at least one other lottery ticket for the drawing.

64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 62 further comprising:  
preventing at least one lottery ticket from being sold with the randomly determined set of symbols.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52, further comprising:

printing a lottery ticket that includes the determined set of symbols.

66-67. (Cancelled)

68. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52, in which the predetermined number is selected by the player.

69. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52, in which the predetermined number is not selected by a lottery authority.

70. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52, further comprising:  
receiving, from the lottery terminal, an indication of a selection by the player of the predetermined number from a plurality of available options.

71. (Previously presented) The method of claim 70, in which the plurality of available options includes an option to have no maximum number.

72. (Previously presented) The method of claim 70, in which the plurality of available options is predetermined by a lottery authority.

73. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium storing instructions configured to direct a computing device to perform steps of:  
receiving, from a lottery terminal at a retail store, a request to purchase a lottery ticket for a drawing in a pari-mutuel lottery;

receiving, from the lottery terminal, an indication of a request to limit the number of occurrences of the lottery number combination by a player, the request indicating that a set of symbols is to be assigned to no more than a predetermined number of lottery tickets sold with respect to the drawing;

in response to receiving the indication from the lottery terminal, determining the set of symbols; and

transmitting an indication of the determined set of symbols to the lottery terminal;

wherein no more than one of the predetermined number of lottery tickets is purchased by the player.

74. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a processor; and

a storage device in communication with the processor, the storage device storing instructions configured to direct the processor to perform steps of:

receiving, from a lottery terminal at a retail store, a request to purchase a lottery ticket for a drawing in a pari-mutuel lottery;

receiving, from the lottery terminal, an indication of a request to limit the number of occurrences of the lottery number combination by a player, the request indicating that a set of symbols is to be assigned to no more than a predetermined number of lottery tickets sold with respect to the drawing;

in response to receiving the indication from the lottery terminal, determining the set of symbols; and

transmitting an indication of the determined set of symbols to the lottery terminal;

wherein no more than one of the predetermined number of lottery tickets is purchased by the player.

75. (Cancelled)

76. (Currently amended) A lottery device, comprising:

a processor; and

a storage device in communication with the processor, the storage device storing instructions configured to direct the processor to:

receive a request by a player to purchase a lottery ticket for a lottery drawing, wherein the lottery ticket is assigned a lottery number combination;

determine whether a request to limit the number of occurrences of the lottery number combination has been made by the player, the request indicating that the lottery number combination be exclusively assigned to only a single lottery ticket for the lottery drawing, such

that the lottery number combination will not be assigned to any other lottery ticket purchased for the lottery drawing;

perform one of (a) or (b):

(a) if a request that the lottery number combination be exclusively assigned to only a single lottery ticket has been made by the player, in response to the request by the player that the lottery number combination be exclusively assigned to only a single lottery ticket for the lottery drawing,

determining the lottery number combination such that the lottery number combination is exclusively assigned to only a single lottery ticket for the lottery drawing,

in which determining the lottery number combination comprises using a random process to select at least one number of the lottery number combination; and

preventing the lottery number combination from being assigned to at least one additional lottery ticket for the lottery drawing; or

(b) if a request that the lottery number combination be exclusively assigned to only a single lottery ticket has not been made by the player, determining the lottery number combination such that it is possible that at the time of the lottery drawing the lottery number combination could be assigned to more than one lottery ticket for the lottery drawing;

and

output an indication of the lottery number combination determined according to either (a) or (b).

77. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium storing instructions configured to direct a computing device to perform steps of:

receiving a request by a player to purchase a lottery ticket for a lottery drawing, wherein the lottery ticket is assigned a lottery number combination;

determining whether a request to limit the number of occurrences of the lottery number combination has been made by the player, the request indicating that the lottery number combination be exclusively assigned to only a single lottery ticket for the lottery drawing, such

that the lottery number combination will not be assigned to any other lottery ticket purchased for the lottery drawing;

performing one of (a) or (b):

(a) if a request that the lottery number combination be exclusively assigned to only a single lottery ticket has been made by the player, in response to the request by the player that the lottery number combination be exclusively assigned to only a single lottery ticket for the lottery drawing,

determining the lottery number combination such that the lottery number combination is exclusively assigned to only a single lottery ticket for the lottery drawing,

in which determining the lottery number combination comprises using a random process to select at least one number of the lottery number combination; and

preventing the lottery number combination from being assigned to at least one additional lottery ticket for the lottery drawing; or

(b) if a request that the lottery number combination be exclusively assigned to only a single lottery ticket has not been made by the player, determining the lottery number combination such that it is possible that at the time of the lottery drawing the lottery number combination could be assigned to more than one lottery ticket for the lottery drawing;

and

outputting an indication of the lottery number combination determined according to either (a) or (b).